



Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation

Dedicated to Youth, Conservation and Bass Anglers of Michigan

Web Site: <http://www.michiganbass.net>



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Thank you Mr. Chair and Committee members for hearing me today. Michigan B.A.S.S. Nation opposes House Bills 5166, 5167 and 5168. We do not support the idea of taking public trust waters and privatizing them for commercial aquaculture profit. Our Great Lakes and public inland waters should be kept for the existing economically productive, quality of life boating and fishing uses, not removed from our use for the benefit of a very few.

We should learn from past mistakes that have brought us the Asian Carp threat, spawning grass carp that were supposed to be sterile, escapes of farm fish into wild stock and the potential for disease and pollution into waters already straining from the onslaughts of exotic species. We do not need to give away public water to an industry that admits the risk cannot be zero. There is definite risk with aquaculture on our public waters and the benefits are not equal to the risk.

Please do not roll the dice with our public waters. Thank you.